

Parish Report – June 2020

Councillor

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COVID-19 Update

Latest Government advice is available here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Further opening of schools

From 1 June it is expected that school will gradually begin to reopen to more pupils, in addition to accommodating children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. The phased opening of schools will start with pupils in nurseries, reception, year one and year six. Secondary schools and other schools such as pupil referral units and special schools will also gradually increase the number of children and young people they can accommodate. For secondary schools this will start with year 10 and year 12.

Suffolk County Council has been supporting schools in preparing for the possibility of increased pupil numbers and have provided all schools with a risk assessment checklist.

Important: It is not compulsory for parents to send their children to school at this time and there will be no penalties for families who choose to keep children at home.

More information is available at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/parent-guidance-about-schools-during-covid-19-pandemic/>

Testing in Suffolk

A regional testing centre for Suffolk and surrounding areas can be found at the **London Road Park and Ride, Copdock, Ipswich**. It is open from 8am to 7pm, every day.

There are also various mobile testing units across Suffolk. In addition, home testing kits can be requested.

More information on how to access a test in Suffolk is available at:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-testing-in-suffolk/>

Changes to pavements/roads to aid social distancing

Suffolk County Council has confirmed that local councils and communities can make some small-scale temporary changes to pavements without needing to seek consent from the county council. These will be local safety measures on pavements that outline queuing areas, social distancing reminders or simple painted markings on pavement surfaces for pedestrians.

However, if the activity that the community wants to carry out requires working on or in the road, then the county council will need to be contacted first. If communities are unsure of where

their proposed changes fit, they are encouraged to contact the county council at: transport.schemes@suffolk.gov.uk.

We have also been encouraging the county council to make more radical changes to the road layout to support cycling and walking. The Department for Transport has announced a £2bn package to boost cycling and walking capacity in the UK, and this is an opportunity for councils to tackle historic congestion problems by encouraging a change in the behaviours of their residents by giving a fairer share of road space to walkers and cyclists.

Domestic Abuse helpline available 24/7

The existing Domestic Abuse Outreach Service, run by Suffolk County Council and Anglia Care Trust, has extended its **0800 977 5690** freephone number to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Anyone with concerns including professionals who may be supporting clients, as well as friends and families who are concerned for loved ones, can access this local support.

Recycling centres reopen with booking system

Suffolk County Council have reopened household waste recycling centres, following weeks of closure due to the lockdown. They are operating on a booking system, to help reduce traffic disruption on roads around the sites and support social distancing on site for staff and members of the public.

Members of the public will need to book a 15-minute slot online at www.suffolk.gov.uk/recyclingcentres or by calling 0345 606 6067. It is not possible to access the sites without a booking.

The following temporary rules apply:

- No access to site without pre-booking
- Cars, car-derived vans, and pedestrians only – no larger vans, trailers or commercial-type vehicles
- One adult to unload, unless 2 adults needed for heavy items
- No staff assistance to unload vehicles
- Chargeable DIY waste (soil, rubble and hardcore) will be accepted, but payment must be made using contactless cards only
- No trade waste, textiles or re-use items accepted

EDF submits application for Sizewell C DCO

On 27 May, EDF submitted an application for a development consent order for Sizewell C to the Planning Inspectorate.

I am very concerned about EDF's decision to go ahead with an application during the current crisis, as it will be much more difficult for the public and stakeholders to fully scrutinise the plans and participate in the consultation process.